

Northcut Plantation (Wheeler Place)
Wheeler Lane
McMinnville vicinity
Warren County
Tennessee

HABS No. TN-219

HABS
TENN,
89-MCMIN,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NORTHCUT PLANTATION
(Wheeler Place)

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Location: 5.7 miles south of intersection of Tennessee Route #108 and Tennessee Route #56, south of McMinnville, Tennessee, east of Route #108, 2.6 miles on Wheeler Lane (gravel), near McMinnville, Warren County, Tennessee.

Present Owner and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. James Barney Russell, Route #3, Box 262, McMinnville, Tennessee

Present Use: residence

Significance: The plantation house was constructed c. 1840. Built on a large scale, it is a well-preserved example of a type of architecture typical to many Tennessee antebellum country houses. Its open-air dog trot between kitchen and smokehouse, brick paving, one-room-deep masonry construction, vast entry hall with exterior doors at each end, and courtyard make it well adapted to the hot summer climate. The house should be noted also for its well-preserved brick slave quarters that form the southwest side of the original courtyard. The woodwork and the doors on the interior of the house are beautifully grained. The original hardware is extant.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of construction: c. 1840
2. Architect: unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description - 298 acres tract south of Hickory Creek on Wheeler Lane 2.6 miles east of Tennessee Highway 108 south of McMinnville in the 9th Civil District of Warren County, State of Tennessee.

The following is an incomplete chain of title (all from Warren County deed books):

Bk. U, p. 20, 4/6/1833 - John R. Glazebrooks to Eli Muncy for \$200. Recorded 12/21/1833.

Bk. R, p. 77, 9/2/1851 - Mary Muncy to Haywood Turner for \$75, 35 acres. Recorded 9/3/1851.

Will book 4, p. 220, 10/15/1866 - Inventory of notes belonging to James Northcut deceased, "The heirs and legatus all being of age agree to divide the household and kitchen furniture, the estate being solvent." Recorded 12/3/1866.

Bk. 2, p. 423, 1/1/1869. - John A. Northcut et al heirs of James Northcut deceased, to A.D. Wheeler and wife Mary Northcut Wheeler for \$175, 3 tracts totaling 50 acres, including that conveyed by Haywood Turner to James Northcut of 10/10/1850. Recorded 5/19/1869.

Bk. 81, p. 398, 10/1/1927 - Alpha Cooksey and Mrs. Josephine Cooksey Pepper to N.B. Wheeler. 1/7 interest for \$800, 4 tracts inherited from grandparents A.D. and M.N. Wheeler home place totaling 323 acres. Recorded 4/21/1937.

Bk. 83, p. 142, 11/1927 - Fannie Wheeler Martin and husband et al to N.B. Wheeler, 4/7 interest for \$2,525.00. "Being the home place of A.D. Wheeler and Mary Wheeler, deceased." Totaling 323 acres. Recorded 11/3/1938.

Bk. 85, p. 219, 9/25/1940 - Mrs. Hollie Wheeler et al to James G. Russell and wife, 298 acres for \$6250.00. Recorded 10/8/1940.

4. Builder or contractor: Bricks and other materials made locally. Labor supplied by slaves. Craftspersons unknown.
 5. Original plan and construction: Slave houses originally were situated in a straight line next to each other to form a courtyard with the rear wall of the house to the east, the dog trot "ell" to the north and the cabins (probably with a dog trot between each two) on the west. The south was open and shaded by large oak trees.
 6. Alterations and additions: There have been very few alterations to the building and no additions since its initial construction. Several of the slave houses were torn down around the turn of the century.
- B. Historical Context: The house was built c. 1840. It was later the home of James Northcut (c. 1810-1866), Warren County planter. A. Northcut (1837 - ?), another planter and also Warren County School Director for three years, was raised here. Later it was the home of A.D. Wheeler and his son Nath Wheeler.

PART II. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Goodspeed's History of Tennessee 1887, Warren County, p. 911 - McClung Collection, Lawson McGhee Library, Knoxville.

Deed Books, County Courthouse, McMinnville, Warren County, Tennessee.

Photograph c. 1905 shows shake roof, two-story portico, and original window sash. Original in possession of Mrs. Price Sain, Meadowlark Lane, Brentwood, Tennessee.

Prepared by: Joseph L. Herndon
Team Historian
HABS
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This recording was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief, in cooperation with the Tennessee Historical Commission and the East Tennessee Historical Society. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, took the photographs in February 1983. Holly Chamberlain, HABS historian, edited and transmitted the documentation to the Library of Congress in December 1987.